

~~/~~ Claim 20, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "any one of claims 15 to 17" and insert
- -claim 15- -.

~~/~~ Claim 21, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "any one of claims 15 to 20" and insert
- -claim 15- -.

~~/~~ Claim 22, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "any one of claims 15 to 21" an insert
- -claim 15- -.

~~/~~ Claim 25, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "or claim 24".

~~/~~ Claim 26, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "any one of claims 23 to 26" and insert
- -claim 23- -.

~~/~~ Claim 27, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "one of claims 23 to 26" and insert - -claim
23- -.

~~/~~ Claim 28, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "any one of claims 23 to 27" and insert
- -claim 23- -;
~~/~~ lines 3 and 4, please cancel "as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 20".

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims in order to reduce the initial filing fee by deleting the multiple dependent claims from the application. Applicants retain the right to reintroduce any subject matter canceled by the present Amendment at any time during the prosecution of this application or any further application claiming benefit of this application.

Applicants have amended the application to substitute the originally filed pages 14-18 with the amended pages 14-17 attached to the International Preliminary

Examiner Report (Annexes) and included in the application as filed herewith. Also, an Abstract of the Disclosure has been added to the application.


Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the Search Report which issued on International Application No. PCT/GB99/02090, of which the present application is the U.S. national phase. All of the publications cited in the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is Applicants' understanding that, under the procedures of the PCT, copies of the cited publications will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office by the International Bureau. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if additional copies are necessary or would facilitate examination of the present application.

Otherwise, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed and dated copy of the attached Form PTO-1449 to confirm that all publications listed thereon have been considered and made officially of record in the file of this application.

Applicants understand that, under the procedures of the PCT, a copy of the priority document (GB 9814507.1, filed 3 July 1998) will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office pursuant to Rule 17 of the PCT Regulations. It is therefore respectfully requested that the first Official Action in the present application contain an indication that the appropriate priority document is in the file of this application.

In view of the above amendments, an early action on the application is now in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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